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WENLOCK, M.B.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1944

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## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

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### **Medical Officer of Health :**

JAMES L. GREGORY, M.B., CH.B., F.R.F.P.S., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.Y.

### **Sanitary Inspectors :**

†Atcham R.D.	W. H. PURSLOW	Cert R. San. Inst.
*†Bishop's Castle. M.B.	H. LONGDEN	Cert. R. San. Inst.
*Church Stretton. U.D.	E. J. MARSH	M.Inst. M. & Cy. Eng.
*†Clun. R.D.	H. A. ELLIOTT	Cert. R. San. Inst.
Wenlock. M.B.	C. J. THOMAS	Cert. R. San. Inst.

\* In these districts the Inspector is also Surveyor.

† Meat Inspector's Certificate held.

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### **Bacteriologist :**

A. J. RHODES, M.D., F.R.C.P.E.  
Donaldson-Hudson Laboratories,  
Royal Salop Infirmary,  
Shrewsbury.

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### **Tuberculosis Officers :**

DR. T. R. ELLIOTT AND DR. A. C. WATKIN,  
Tuberculosis Dispensary,  
17 Belmont,  
Shrewsbury.

# South West Salop United Districts.

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1ST JUNE, 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Constituent Authorities.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the Districts for the year ending 31st December, 1944.

The Report is drawn up in accordance with Circular 49/45 of the Ministry of Health, dated 19th March, 1945, and previous Circulars. Statistics for each area are given separately and a general summary for all the districts is also given. In the six sections of the report the districts are arranged alphabetically so that details for any particular district may be easily found.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

It will be seen from the following figures that the statistics compare favourably with those for the country as a whole.

	South West Salop	England & Wales
Birth-rate ... ... ... ...	19.9	17.6
Death-rate (crude) ... ... ... ...	12.2	11.5
Infantile Mortality rate ... ... ...	39	46
Maternal Death-rate ... ... ...	1.03	1.93
Neo-natal Death-rate ... ... ...	25.3	25.3
Still-Birth rate ... ... ...	16.6	28
Tuberculosis Death-rate :—		
(A) Pulmonary ... ... ...	0.337	*
(B) Non-pulmonary ... ... ...	nil	*
Cancer Death-rate ... ... ...	1.812	*
Diphtheria :—		
Notification rate ... ... ...	0.04	0.58
Death-rate ... ... ...	0.02	0.02

(\* Not available)

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

No outbreak of serious infectious disease falls to be recorded during the year. Measles, Whooping-Cough and Scarlet Fever were most numerous among the cases notified.

There were only two cases of Diphtheria notified, one of which proved fatal. In both cases the patients were unprotected against the disease. It is interesting to note that no contacts of these cases developed Diphtheria.

The work of protecting the children has been continued as in former years and, with a large percentage of the children protected, it is not likely that we shall again have an epidemic of this disease in the area, provided the younger children are immunized as they reach their first birth-day.

## **HOUSING**

Although the building of new houses was still at a standstill during 1944, apart from the completion of the Agricultural Cottages, the year has been one of planning for the time when building will again be possible.

Each Council has considered its own needs as regards housing and particulars of the housing programmes will be found in Section D. of the report. It is not an easy matter at the present time to know where the demand will be greatest for houses in the post-war period, as this depends to some extent on the location of industries, but generally speaking, sites have been selected where services such as water supplies, sewage disposal schemes and electricity are available.

Some of the Councils have applied for temporary houses which the Government hope will help to overcome the housing shortage until such time as more permanent houses can be erected.

## **WATER SUPPLIES**

Surveys of the possible sources of water supplies for the rural districts are being undertaken and in addition the County Council are having a more general survey made of the water sources for the county as a whole so that a complete scheme for every district may be planned.

Under the provisions of the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, it is hoped that a piped water supply will be made available to a much greater proportion of houses in rural districts than is the case at present.

During the year no serious shortage of water has been reported in any of the districts and in certain areas improvements as regards the purification of supplies have been carried out. Particulars of the supplies in the various districts will be found in Section C. of the report.

## TUBERCULOSIS

The number of new cases notified was 49, which is about the same as in the last few years. Thirty-one of these were of the pulmonary type and 18 non-pulmonary.

Deaths numbered 16, which is the lowest number recorded since 1939. Deaths from Tuberculosis increased all over the country during the years 1940 to 1943, and it is therefore of interest to note the decrease in the number of deaths in the year under review. No deaths were from the non-pulmonary form of the disease.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES L. GREGORY,

Medical Officer<sup>\*</sup> of Health.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

The following are certain general statistics relating to the five districts in the South West Salop Area :—

ATCHAM R.D:

Registrar-General's estimate of population—mid 1944	...	...	20,230
Area in Acres	...	...	134,465
Number of inhabited houses as at 31/12/44	...	...	5,305
Rateable Value	...	...	£83,993
Product of 1d. rate	...	...	£351

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BISHOP'S CASTLE.  
M.B.

Registrar-General's estimate of population, mid-1944	...	...	1,315
Area in acres	...	...	1,867
Number of inhabited houses as at 31/12/44	...	...	396
Rateable value	...	...	£5,683
Product of 1d. rate	...	...	£21

CHURCH STRETTON U.D.	Registrar-General's estimate of population mid 1944	...	...	2,426
	Area in acres ...	...	...	6,085
	Number of inhabited houses as at 31/12/44	...	...	684
	Rateable value	...	...	£20,426
	Product of 1d. rate	...	...	£80/18/2

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CLUN R.D.	Registrar-General's estimate of population mid 1944	...	...	9,471
	Area in acres ...	...	...	132,512
	Number of inhabited houses as at 31/12/44	...	...	2,879
	Rateable value	...	...	£24,165
	Product of 1d. rate	...	...	£106/11/7

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WENLOCK M.B.	Registrar-General's estimate of population mid 1944	...	...	14,020
	Area in acres ...	...	...	22,657
	Number of inhabited houses as at 31/12/44	...	...	4,333
	Rateable value	...	...	£49,240
	Product of 1d. rate	...	...	£192/0/3

## ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT

### VITAL STATISTICS

		Total	M.	F.
<b>Live Births</b> —Legitimate	...	370	199	171
Illegitimate	...	42	20	22
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	412	219	193

**Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population = 20.3**

<b>Still Births</b>	...	...	5	4	1
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**Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births = 12.1.**

<b>Deaths</b>	...	...	214	115	99
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**Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population = 10.5.**

**Deaths from Puerperal Causes :**

	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live & still births
From Puerperal Sepsis ...	nil	—
From other puerperal causes...	nil	—
Totals ...	nil	—

**Deaths of Infants under one year.**

	No. of Deaths.	Rate
(A) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births ... ...	13	35
(B) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births ... ...	1	24
(c) All Infants per 1,000 total births	14	34

Deaths from CANCER (all ages)	...	...	...	...	41
„ „ MEASLES (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ DIARRHŒA (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	1

**BOROUGH OF BISHOP'S CASTLE****VITAL STATISTICS**

<b>Live Births</b>			Total	M.	F.
	Legitimate	Illegitimate			
	...	...	19	7	12
	...	...	—	—	—
			—	—	—
	Totals	...	19	7	12
			—	—	—

**Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population = 14.4**

**Still Births** ... ... ... ... Nil — —

**Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births = Nil**

**Deaths** ... ... ... ... 20 8 12

**Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population = 15.2**

**Deaths from Puerperal Causes :**

		Number of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live & still births
From Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil	—
From other puerperal causes		Nil	—
		—	—
Totals	...	Nil	—
		—	—

**Deaths of Infants under one year.**

		Number of Deaths	Rate
(A) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	... ... ... ...	1	52
(B) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	... ... ... ...	—	—
(C) All Infants per 1,000 total births	... ...	1	52
Deaths from CANCER (all ages)	... ... ...	...	1
„ „ MEASLES (all ages)	... ... ...	...	—
„ „ WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	... ... ...	...	—
„ „ DIARRHŒA (under 2 years)	... ... ...	...	—

**CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT****VITAL STATISTICS**

		Total	M.	F.
<b>Live Births</b> —Legitimate	...	36	15	21
Illegitimate	...	2	1	1
Totals	...	38	16	22

**Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population = 15.4****Still Births** ... ... ... ... 2 2 —**Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births = 52****Deaths** ... ... ... ... 37 20 17**Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population = 15.3**

**Deaths from Puerperal Causes :**

		Number of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live & still births
From Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil	—
From other puerperal causes		Nil	—
Totals	...	Nil	—

**Deaths of Infants under one year :**

		Number of deaths	Rate
(A) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	—
(B) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	500
(C) All Infants per 1,000 total births	...	1	26

Deaths from	CANCER (all ages)	...	...	...	...	6
„ „ „	MEASLES (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ „	WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ „	DIARRHŒA (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	—

**CLUN RURAL DISTRICT****VITAL STATISTICS**

Live Births	Legitimate	...	...	Total	M.	F.
				168	84	84
	Illegitimate	...	...	17	9	8
				—	—	—
	Totals	...	185	93	92	—
				—	—	—

**Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population = 19.5**

Still Births	...	...	...	...	4	2
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**Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) = 21.6**

Deaths	...	...	...	...	135	71	64
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**Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population = 14.2**

**Deaths from Puerperal Causes :**

		Number of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live & still births
From Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil	—
From other puerperal causes		1	5.2
		—	—
Totals	...	1	5.2
		—	—

**Deaths of Infants under one year :**

		Number of Deaths	Rate
(A) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	... ... ... ...	9	53
(B) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	... ... ... ...	1	59
(C) All Infants per 1,000 total births	... ...	10	54
		—	—

Deaths from CANCER (all ages)	...	...	...	...	20
„ „ MEASLES (all ages)	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ DIARRHŒA (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	—

**BOROUGH OF WENLOCK****VITAL STATISTICS**

		Total	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	...	271	144	127
Illegitimate	...	22	10	12
		—	—	—
Totals	...	293	154	139
		—	—	—

**Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population = 20.9**

Still Births	...	...	...	5	3	2
				—	—	—

**Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births = 17**

Deaths	...	...	...	...	189	102	87
					—	—	—

**Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population = 12.7**

**Deaths from Puerperal Causes :**

		Number of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live & still births
From Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil	-
From other puerperal causes		Nil	-
Totals	...	Nil	-

**Deaths of Infants under One Year :**

		Number of deaths	Rate
(A) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	... ... ... ...	9	36
(B) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	... ... ... ...	2	91
(C) All Infants per 1,000 total births	...	11	37

Deaths from CANCER (all ages)	...	...	...	...	18
„ „ MEASLES (all ages)	...	...	...	...	-
„ „ WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ DIARRHŒA (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	1

## SECTION A.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Generally speaking the districts are rural in character, the chief occupation being agriculture, but there are also some urban areas, chiefly in the Wenlock Borough.

Population figures have not been given during the war years, but it may be said generally that there has not been much variation in the different areas, except such as could be accounted for by the numbers of evacuees—chiefly children.

The statistics given on the previous pages for the five areas compare favourably with those for the country generally, and the following notes on the chief statistical figures allow of a comparison to be made between the different areas.

### NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS

#### **Births.**

The total number of live births registered in the combined districts was 947, and this represents a birth-rate of 19.9 per 1,000 of the population. (Eng. & W. = 17.6).

The following are the birth-rates for the separate districts :—

District	Total Births	Birth-rate
Atcham R.D. ... ...	412	20.3
Bishop's Castle M.B. ...	19	14.4
Church Stretton U.D. ...	38	15.4
Clun R.D. ... ...	185	19.5
Wenlock M.B. ... ...	293	20.9
South West Salop ... ...	947	19.9

#### **Still-births.**

These numbered 16 (Atcham, 5 ; Bishop's Castle, nil ; Church Stretton, 2 ; Clun, 4 ; and Wenlock, 5). This gives a Still-birth Rate of 0.33 per 1,000 of the population. The rate for England and Wales was 0.50. In 1943 the number of Still-births was 34 and the rate = 0.74.

### Deaths.

A total of 595 deaths were registered giving a death-rate of 12.2 per 1,000 of the population. This is the crude death-rate, as no comparability factor is at present available.

The following are the figures for each area :—

District	Total Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000 of population
Atcham R.D. ...	214	10.5
Bishop's Castle M.B. ...	20	15.2
Church Stretton U.D. ...	37	15.2
Clun R.D. ...	135	14.2
Wenlock M.B. ...	189	12.7
South West Salop ...	595	12.2

NOTE.—The death-rate for England and Wales in 1944 was 11.6.

### Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Only one death was registered from causes associated with child-birth (Clun R.D.) in the combined districts. This gives a maternal mortality rate of 1.03 per 1,000 total (live and still) births. The rate for England and Wales in 1944 was 1.93.

### Natural Increase of Population.

The number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 352. (In 1942 the excess was 307, and in 1943, 387).

### Infantile Mortality.

The number of infant deaths (i.e., of infants under 12 months old) recorded was 37, and this gives an infantile mortality rate of 39 per 1,000 live births.

The rate is lower than that for the country generally, which was 46.

District	Total No. of Infant Deaths	Infantile Mortality Rate
Atcham R.D. ...	14	34
Bishop's Castle M.B. ...	1	52
Church Stretton U.D. ...	1	26
Clun R.D. ...	10	54
Wenlock M.B. ...	11	37
S.W. Salop ...	37	39

The causes of these infants' deaths and the ages at death were as follows :—

Cause of Death						Number
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	10
Congenital Defects	...	...	...	...	...	7
Bronchitis and Broncho-pneumonia					...	7
Debility	...	...	...	...	...	5
Gastro-enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other causes	...	...	...	...	...	6

### Ages at Death.

Under 24 hrs.	Total						under 1 year.		
	1—7 days	1—4 weeks	under 4 wks.	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—9 mths.			
	10	10	3	23	7	5	2	-	37

It will be seen that the majority of infant deaths take place during the first month of life. Efforts to reduce infantile mortality have been chiefly successful with regard to the older infants.

The rate for the infants aged under a month has not been improved to the same extent and the causes of these deaths are chiefly prematurity, debility and congenital defects. The health of the mother before her child is born is therefore of the greatest importance if the number of these early infant deaths is to be reduced.

The number of still-births has to be considered in connection with the deaths of infants, as these two rates are closely associated. The Still Birth Rate for the country generally is declining slowly, and for the year 1944 it was 28 per 1,000 total births.

In the South West Salop Districts the number of Still-births fell from 34 in 1943 to 16 in 1944, and the rate from 30.4 to 16.6 per 1,000 total births. This is a very considerable drop and may partly account for the increase in the Infant Mortality Rate.

In such a scattered area it is difficult to provide ante-natal centres available for all the expectant mothers, and war-time conditions have not helped matters, but it is hoped that in the post-war period more centres will be opened, so that a higher percentage of mothers may attend than is possible at present.

## SECTION B.

### **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.**

#### **Staff.**

There has been no change during the year. There are two whole-time Sanitary Inspectors and three part-time Inspectors who are also Surveyors for their respective districts. As was pointed out in last year's report it may be necessary in the post-war years to appoint additional Inspectors in the larger rural areas in view of the increased work which housing programmes will entail.

#### **Laboratory Facilities.**

The co-operation of Dr. A. J. Rhodes and his Staff at the Donaldson-Hudson Laboratories, Royal Salop Infirmary, has again been most helpful, and I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks for all the work undertaken.

In addition to routine pathological reports on specimens sent to the Laboratory, large numbers of water and milk samples have also been reported on.

#### **Ambulance Facilities.**

These remain the same as mentioned in my report for 1941. The County Council have two ambulances at Shrewsbury, and there is also one at Much Wenlock and at Bishop's Castle. There have been no complaints made with regard to getting patients into any of the various hospitals.

#### **Nursing in the Home.**

This is carried on by the nurses employed by the various nursing associations throughout the districts, and details of the work will be found in the annual report of the Shropshire Nursing Federation to which the various associations are affiliated.

#### **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**

There are combined School Clinics and Infant Welfare Centres at Bishop's Castle, Church Stretton and Ironbridge. Additional ones are needed, e.g., in the Atcham R.D. and at Much Wenlock, but shortage of staff makes it impossible to open any new ones at present.

The days and hours of meetings of the Clinics, which are under the control of the County Health Department, are as follows :—

BISHOP'S CASTLE	First and Third Friday afternoons each month.
CHURCH STRETTON	First and Third Thursday afternoons each month.
IRONBRIDGE	Friday afternoons weekly.

**Welfare Attendances—1944.**

Welfare Centre	Under 1 year		Aged 1-5 years		Expectant Mothers		
	New	Total	New	Total	First Visits	Total Attend.	
Bishop's Castle	26	117	44	315	7	22	
Church Stretton	54	410	22	393	10	45	
Ironbridge	166	1829	79	1511	27	48	

**Venereal Diseases Clinic.**

This is held at 1 Belmont, Shrewsbury, at the following times :

MALES	FEMALES
Tues. & Fri. 6—8 p.m.	Mon. & Wed. 2—4 p.m.

**Tuberculosis Dispensary.**

This is held at 17 Belmont, Shrewsbury. Cases are usually referred to the Tuberculosis Officers by private practitioners, and suitable cases are admitted to the Sanatorium at Shirlett. Reference has been made in previous Reports to the scheme of allowances for patients undergoing treatment at a Sanatorium. Thirteen cases received allowances in 1944.

## SECTION C.

### **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

The matters to be reported on in this section of the report include: water supplies, sewerage and sewage disposal, public cleansing and other schemes which are of importance in connection with environmental hygiene.

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The Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, is an Act to make provision as to water supplies, sewerage and sewage disposal in rural localities, and to make expenses incurred by rural district councils in connection with water supplies, sewerage and sewage disposal, general expenses.

Under a previous Act (Rural Water Supplies Act, 1934) a sum of £1,000,000 of Exchequer money was made available by way of grants to stimulate the provision of water supplies in rural districts, and this resulted in work being carried out to the value of nearly £7,000,000, and in the provision of piped water supply schemes in some 2,000 parishes. After these schemes had been completed it was estimated that some 70% of the inhabitants of rural districts had a piped supply of water or were within reasonable distance of a main to which connection could be made.

Under the new Act the Exchequer grant is much larger (£15,000,000) and if it is equally successful it is hoped that the percentage mentioned above should be very much increased and only a very small proportion of rural dwellers will be without a piped water supply.

The powers and duties of local authorities are to be retained, but the default powers of the Minister of Health will be strengthened and amalgamations of undertakings are to be encouraged and, if necessary, enforced.

At the time of writing the position is that Rural District Councils are having surveys made of their districts and schemes prepared regarding proposed water supplies to cover the districts. These schemes will then be submitted for approval to the Ministry of Health and the County Council concerned, both of whom will make contributions towards the scheme, if approved.

## ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT

### **Water Supplies.**

Particulars of the Council's two main supplies (West Atcham and Pimhill) have been given in previous reports. During the year under review these supplies have proved adequate as regards quantity, and monthly bacteriological reports have proved both supplies to have a high degree of purity.

An extension of the West Atcham supply to Horsebridge has been carried out during the year. This was required as the wells from which the previous supply was obtained were not yielding a satisfactory water (Annual Report, 1942, p. 15).

### **Survey of Water Resources.**

The Council's Surveyor (Mr. J. R. Sockett) has presented a Report on the water resources of the district as a whole, together with recommendations as to new schemes which will be needed to ensure that practically the whole area will have piped water supplies. In addition to the Council's present supplies, West Atcham and Pimhill, the Report suggests two further major schemes, one in the North East part of the district and one at Condover, together with an extension of the West Atcham supply at Ford. Approval has, of course, to be obtained to these suggested schemes, but it is satisfactory that so much progress has been made with the planning of them, as in this way the minimum of time will be needed in order to get work on them started in the post-war period.

### **Sewerage and Drainage.**

The provision of sewerage schemes is also required under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944. Among places where sewage disposal schemes will be required are the following : Bayston Hill, Minsterley, Cross Houses, Ford, Condover, Bomere Heath, Hanwood, Montford Bridge, Cressage, Longden, etc.

## BOROUGH OF BISHOP'S CASTLE

### **Water Supply.**

The main town supply proved adequate during the year, except in the months of June, July and August, when the supply had to be restricted during part of the day. Pumping from the auxiliary supply took place in the three months mentioned.

It was decided to instal a chlorinating plant, and this is now in use. Samples of the water are taken twice a month, and the

bacteriological reports show that the water, after chlorination, is safe for domestic use. As there are some houses on the outskirts of the town which are not on the main supply, samples have been taken from the wells and springs supplying these houses, with a view to ascertaining the purity or otherwise of these supplies. Seventeen reports have already been received, and in most cases the samples have proved to be satisfactory. In other cases steps will be taken either to have the houses concerned connected to the mains or, if this is impracticable, to have the well supply improved.

The Council are seeking advice with regard to the reservoir at Maesgwyn, which is not used at present, owing to leakages from it. It is hoped that something can be done to render it capable of being used, as this would greatly increase the reserve of water for dry periods. The capacity of the reservoir is 500,000 gallons or nearly twenty days' supply.

Further details of the supply will be found in the report for 1941 (p. 17).

### **Sewers and Drains.**

The Surveyor (Mr. H. Longden) reports that one existing building was connected to the sewers, but there have been no extensions to the main sewers. Five small extensions or additions to existing drains were carried out. The disposal works, with a few minor repairs, continued to function well.

### **Disinfestation (Rats).**

A survey was made for the purpose of ascertaining if there were any major areas of infestation, but none were found. The sewers appear also to be free from rats. Fifty-two visits were paid in the course of the survey, etc.

### **Refuse Disposal.**

This is carried out by contract, and a weekly collection is made. The refuse is tipped at Moat Hill.

## **CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT**

### **Water Supply.**

A full account of the sources of supply in the area was given in the Report for 1943 (pages 23–25).

During 1944 the supply has been adequate in amount. The Council have decided to purchase the All Stretton Supply by

negotiation with the private company who own it, and in the meantime the Surveyor is supervising the chlorination of the supply.

The Council also decided to install a chlorinating plant for the Town Brook Hollow Supply and this is being proceeded with. When this is completed the water from all three sources of supply will be chlorinated and thus rendered safe for domestic use.

Tests for residual chlorine are made weekly as regards New Pool Hollow and All Stretton supplies. It would be advisable that monthly samples should be taken for bacteriological examination from all three sources. During 1944 samples were taken quarterly: those from the New Pool Hollow Supply proving to be satisfactory on each occasion. As a result of unsatisfactory samples from the other two supplies the Council are taking the action mentioned above.

Two chemical analyses were made of the water from the All Stretton Supply, and these showed it to be a soft water, but with no corrosive action on metals.

### **Refuge Disposal and Salvage.**

Refuse is collected weekly, and is disposed of by "tipping" in a field at Little Stretton next to the sewage disposal works. Rats are controlled by the County Council Rat Officer.

The amount of Salvage collected was 28 tons 18 cwts. The value was £175 18s. 5d.

### **New Sewerage Schemes.**

Schemes for the seweraging of All Stretton and Little Stretton have engaged the Council's attention during the year, and the services of a consulting engineer have been obtained to report on these matters (Annual Report, 1943, p. 26). A sample of sewage effluent was taken in November, and proved satisfactory.

In times of heavy rainfall a large amount of surface water gains access to the sewers and this matter is one which will have to be dealt with in the post-war period.

## **CLUN RURAL DISTRICT.**

### **Water Supplies.**

Samples of the larger supplies were taken during the year and the majority proved satisfactory. Among those which were **not** satisfactory were Aston-on-Clun, Marton, Walkmill, and Newcastle, all of which were mentioned in last year's report as being unsatisfactory.

The Council have appointed Mr. A. H. S. Waters, of Birmingham, to report on schemes for the whole district, in accordance with the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944. It is probable that in the future there will be larger schemes of supply, and as these will be fewer in number it will be easier to control their purity and wholesomeness.

At Clungunford it was decided to bore for a new source of supply for the village as the present one is privately owned and is not adequate in a dry season.

A good supply was obtained and tests showed the amount of water to be adequate and of good quality. It is proposed to pump the water to a reservoir and then distribute it to the village by gravity.

At Colebatch an enquiry was made into the present supplies available from wells, and investigation was also made as to new sources of supply on a larger scale.

At Clun there was a shortage in the autumn, as there was the previous year. The springs which yield the supply are only just sufficient to meet the demand at present and in parts of the town the pressure is low. The Council decided to have a bore sunk near the present reservoir with a view to augmenting the supply. In the month of September, 1944, a flow of 7,000 gallons per day was observed in the bore-hole, but no prolonged test has been made. It is hoped that this extra supply will be sufficient to augment the main supply and to avoid the shortage which takes place after a spell of dry weather. The bore-hole is 160 feet deep, and the standing water level is 19 feet from the surface. Tenders have now been invited for the provision of a pump-house, pump and petrol engine and the necessary connection to the existing reservoir.

The water from an additional spring has been added to the Bromlow supply. At Chirbury the new collecting tank has proved satisfactory, and there was no complaint of shortage in 1944. Shortages of water were reported from Bucknell, Chapel Lawn, Marton and Newcastle in addition to the others already mentioned.

Samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination on 25 occasions, and where the report was unsatisfactory the matter was brought to the Council's notice.

Generally speaking these small piped supplies are pure and quite suitable for domestic use, but with such a number of them to control it is difficult to ensure that the gathering grounds are protected from contamination.

When the survey of water resources is completed, it will probably be found that fewer and larger supplies will be recommended and then control will be easier and more efficiently carried out.

### **Sewers and Drains.**

The Surveyor reports that the only new work undertaken during the year was at Lydbury North, where the drainage of the Council Houses was improved and the roadside ditch taken over as a sewer. This was referred to in my report last year.

Several of the villages in the area are of such a size that the provision of a sewage disposal plant for each of them will have to be considered. This is more especially so where new houses and new water supply schemes are projected. Among such places are the following : Clun, Worthen, Bucknell and Aston-on-Clun. Generally speaking, when there is a population of 300 or more and a main water supply, it is necessary to consider the provision of a sewage disposal plant, otherwise a nuisance will sooner or later arise. Part of the Government subsidy is to be given for such new schemes in the post-war period. The Council are taking steps to have a sewerage scheme prepared for Clun (April, 1945).

### **Refuse Collection and Disposal.**

Collection is only carried out at Clun and at Kinsley Road, Knighton. In Clun there about 200 houses and a collection is made on two half-days in each week. At Knighton the collection is weekly from 26 houses.

The Surveyor (Mr. H. A. Elliott) reports that from time to time some of the villages have made representations with a view to there being a general collection of refuse in the area.

The disposal of refuse by householders near their houses is not satisfactory, as flies and rats increase in number as a result, and may become a menace to health.

It would appear that the Council would be well advised to consider a fortnightly collection of refuse over the district by means of a motor vehicle, as is done in some other similar rural areas.

## **BOROUGH OF WENLOCK.**

### **Water Supplies.**

The two main supplies functioned in a satisfactory manner during the year. The quantity was adequate and the quality satisfactory, both as regards the Harrington Main Supply and the Much Wenlock Supply.

The Harrington Supply is chlorinated and bacteriological reports prove it to be of a high standard of purity.

At Much Wenlock also the supply is satisfactory, although it is not chlorinated. Details of the supply will be found in the Report for 1943 (p. 28).

In September samples from the two wells at Homer proved to be unsatisfactory, more especially the water from No. 2 well.

The supplies at Callaughton Spout and at Little Wenlock are also unsatisfactory from a bacteriological standpoint. Some repairs have been carried out at the former supply, and reports show an improvement in the quality of the water at the spout.

Chlorination of these smaller supplies would be the easiest and most efficient method of rendering the supplies pure and wholesome for domestic use. Otherwise it would be best to extend the major supplies such as the Harrington supply to cover the more outlying areas, and this may result after the survey at present being carried out in the county is completed and a report made on it.

The importance of safeguarding, as far as is possible, the water supply of a district cannot be over-stressed, as it is of fundamental importance. It is obvious that the purer the original source of supply and the fewer the supplies, the more effectively can control be carried out.

### **Sewerage and Drainage.**

The following particulars of the sewage disposal systems have been supplied by the Inspector.

### **Madeley Ward.**

There are two disposal plants, the one dealing with Madeley, not including The Aqueduct and certain other outlying districts. There are 710 private properties and 176 Council Houses connected with the scheme of sewers. The Committee resolved during the year to construct a new sewer in New Road, Madeley, to serve a further 26 houses.

The other system is at Ironbridge and serves 82 Council Houses at Wrekin View plus 16 Council Houses at Beech Road and also a few private dwellings.

It will be seen therefore that about 1,000 houses are connected to the sewers which connect with the two disposal plants mentioned. Some of the remainder of the houses are connected to sewers which act as combined storm water drains and sewers and the contents are

discharged into the Severn without any treatment. This is an unsatisfactory state of affairs and the Council would be well advised to have a disposal scheme constructed to deal with the sewage from the houses which are as yet unconnected to a proper sewerage system.

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### **Broseley Ward.**

Here there is a disposal plant which takes sewage from two housing estates of about 78 houses in all. The older sewers from the eastern part of the town are also connected.

From the rest of the town the sewage is still untreated and is discharged into the river in this condition.

A complete sewage disposal scheme is also needed in this Ward.

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### **Much Wenlock.**

The disposal plant deals with practically all the sewage in the town and the outlying properties have septic tanks in many cases. The effluent was found to be satisfactory.

### **Little Wenlock.**

In this Ward there is no disposal plant, but the properties are largely served by septic tanks.

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During the year 10 privies were converted to water closets and drainage repairs were carried out at 58 properties. Samples of sewage effluents from the four disposal works were taken during the year, and were found to conform to the standards laid down by the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal.

### **Refuse Disposal.**

In the Madeley Ward house refuse and night-soil is collected weekly, and house refuse at Broseley and Much Wenlock. At Madeley difficulty was experienced in getting a contractor to empty the cess-pits, and some delay took place, which gave rise to many complaints. A contractor has now been obtained.

### **Smoke Pollution.**

No case of serious smoke pollution was reported during the year.

### **Salvage.**

The Salvage Officer reports that about 56 tons of salvage was collected during the year, the value being £350.

## SECTION D.

### HOUSING.

During the year 28 cottages for agricultural workers were completed (Atcham R.D., 16; Clun R.B., 8; and Wenlock Borough, 4). Particulars of these were given in the Report for 1943, pages 31-36.

The Government's scheme for supplying temporary houses was considered by the various Councils and the Wenlock M.B., Church Stretton U.D. and Clun R.D. Council have made application for some of these to be provided in their areas.

A Joint Advisory Committee on Housing has been appointed composed of representatives from the Rural District Councils and the County Council. This Committee will report on the standards to be set up in classifying houses when a survey is made, so that uniform standards will be recognised throughout the county. So far no additional Sanitary Inspectors have been appointed by either of the Rural Councils to carry out the work of the Survey. This matter was referred to in the Hobhouse Report, 1944, in which it was stated that the writers were satisfied that there was a need for an increase in the number of Sanitary Inspectors in Rural Areas. It is difficult to see how the survey can be carried out—and the work of supervision of repairs which will have to follow it—unless additional inspectors are appointed. The only alternative would appear to be that a staff of inspectors should be appointed either by the County Council or a Joint Committee and that these Inspectors should visit each area in turn, and carry out the survey. This would have the disadvantage that the staff carrying out the Survey would not be the same as that which would have to supervise the repairs and reconstructions, etc., following it.

Post-War programmes for building permanent houses in the different areas were outlined in last year's report (p. 32). Sites have been selected and approved, but further progress will have to await the availability of labour and material, and it is impossible to say when these will be allocated to areas which have not suffered from war damage.

The shortage of houses is still acute and will no doubt become more so when demobilization begins. In spite of this and of the existence of considerable over-crowding, there has been no serious outbreak of infectious disease in the last five years, nor has the health of the people been adversely affected as far as can be ascertained.

It is obvious that while the war lasts on its present scale it is impossible to conduct a housing programme which has to make up for nearly six years complete stoppage of all building. We may plan to a certain extent for the future housing programme, but the actual building will of necessity have to wait until the labour and materials are available.

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### ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	5,305
Number of Council houses	...	...	...	...	233
Post-War Housing Programme :—					
(A) Short term programme (1st year)	...	...	...	...	100
(B) Long term programme (15 years)	...	...	...	...	1,118
Temporary Houses	...	...	...	...	Nil

The 16 cottages for agricultural workers were completed during the year. Particulars of these were given in the report for 1943 (pages 31 and 32).

The Council decided not to apply for any of the temporary dwellings, but to push on as fast as possible with their programme for permanent houses. Sites for the short term programme have been selected and the Ministry's approval has been obtained in the case of nine out of the ten sites selected. Particulars of the areas in which these 100 houses will be erected were given in the report for 1943 (page 32).

### Housing Survey.

A commencement has been made this year (1945) with the classification of houses and the Council have appointed an assistant to help the Inspector in this work.

### Housing Inspections, etc.

The Inspector (Mr. W. H. Purslow) reports as follows :—

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	19
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	341
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	17
Number complied with	...	...	...	...	...	11
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Cases of overcrowding reported	...	...	...	...	...	9
Certificates of essentiality for repairs granted	...	...	...	...	...	20
Council Houses disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other houses disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	9

### BOROUGH OF BISHOP'S CASTLE.

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	396
Number of Council houses	...	...	...	...	48
Post-War Housing Programme	...	...	...	...	12-18
Temporary houses	...	...	...	...	nil

The housing shortage is not so acute at Bishop's Castle as it is in other parts of the area. The Council own 48 out of a total of 396 houses, i.e., 12%, and propose to build a further 12-18 houses on a site at Corick's Meadow as soon as labour and material are available. Water, electricity, and sewerage will be available at this site, which has been approved. At present there are 40 applications for houses in the town.

The Inspector reports that 9 complaints re housing defects were received during the year, and 61 visits paid. Twelve preliminary notices were served, of which eight have been complied with. Three certificates of essentiality for repairs to be carried out were granted. One new case of over-crowding was reported. No house has had to be disinfected because of vermin.

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### CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	684
Number of Council houses	...	...	...	...	54
Post-War Programme :—					
(A) Permanent houses	...	...	...	...	30
(B) Temporary houses	...	...	...	...	10

#### Permanent Houses.

The Council have received approval for the building of 12 new houses at the Lutwyche Road Site where all services are available. A further programme for the building of 18 additional houses has been discussed, but a site has not yet been decided on. This would make a total of 30 houses to be built.

#### Temporary Houses.

It was decided to apply for 30 of these houses, and 10 have been allocated to the district. It is hoped that these houses will help to tide over the housing shortage in the years immediately following the end of the war. At the time of writing a site has not been fixed on for these houses.

### Housing Inspections.

The Inspector reports that 42 houses were inspected and five were found to have some defect which required the serving of notice on the owner. In three cases the necessary repairs or alterations were carried out.

No cases of over-crowding were reported during the year.

### Repair of Houses.

Two applications for certificates of essentiality were received during the year, and in both cases a certificate was granted.

### CLUN RURAL DISTRICT.

No. of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	2,879
Number of Council houses	...	...	...	...	...	73
Post-War Housing Programme :—						
(A) Temporary houses	...	...	...	...	...	30
(B) Permanent houses (1st year)		...	...	...	...	56

During the year eight cottages for agricultural workers were completed, and are now tenanted. Details of these were given in the report for 1943 (p. 34).

The Council applied for 100 temporary houses, and were allotted 30. It has been decided to have them erected in the following districts :—

Worthen	...	...	...	10
Bucknell	...	...	...	10
Aston-on-Clun	...	...	...	10

Sites for these have been inspected and approved subject to a satisfactory water supply being obtained at Aston-on-Clun, and to sewerage being available at the sites. Main water is available at Worthen and Bucknell.

### Permanent Houses.

Particulars of the number of houses it is proposed to build in the first year after the war were given in the report for 1943 (p. 34). The sites have been approved, with the exception of those at Snail-beach, Bettws-y-Crwyn and Llanfairwaterdine. It is proposed to build 56 houses in all in sixteen different areas.

### Housing Survey.

At the time of writing this has not yet been commenced. The Council are awaiting the report from the Joint Advisory Committee on Rural Housing as to the standards to be laid down and the method in which the survey is to be carried out.

## BOROUGH OF WENLOCK.

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	4,333
Number of Council houses	...	...	...	...	518
Post-War Housing Programme (1st year)	...	...	...	...	200
Temporary houses	...	...	...	...	40

The four agricultural cottages at Bourton were completed during the year, and details of these will be found in my report for 1943 (p. 36).

The number of houses in the sanitary districts of the Borough are as follows :—

Madeley	...	...	2,156
Broseley	...	...	1,126
Much Wenlock	...	...	646
Barrow	...	...	405

### **Temporary Houses.**

The number of these applied for was 175, and 40 have been allotted. At Broseley and Madely sites are available, and others will be selected as soon as is possible so that the houses may be erected where they are most required. It is essential that water and electricity and sewerage should be available on the sites.

### **Permanent Houses.**

Particulars of the sites on which the 200 houses are to be erected when this is possible will be found on page 35 of the report for 1943. The numbers it is proposed to build in the four sanitary districts are :—

Madeley	...	...	100
Broseley	...	...	50
Much Wenlock	...	...	35
Barrow	...	...	15

### **Inspections, etc.**

The Inspector reports that of 81 houses found to be defective in some respect or other, 76 were repaired. Visits were made to 300 houses in all. Two closing orders were made by the Madeley Sanitary Committee, and the families will be re-housed as soon as other accommodation is available.

Certificates of essentiality for repairs have been granted in 119 cases, the total estimated cost of the work to be carried out being £3,205.

Disinfestation was carried out in two Council houses and four other houses.

Generally speaking the need for new houses in the district is very great, as not only has there been an almost complete absence of new houses being built during the last six years, but many houses have become uninhabitable from lack of repairs. Applications for houses in the Sanitary Districts are as follows :—

Madeley	...	...	...	300
Broseley	...	...	...	140
Much Wenlock	...	...	...	68
Barrow	...	...	...	3

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In the Madeley and Broseley Wards the problem of sewers and sewage disposal will have to be faced before any further large scale building programmes are commenced. At present the conditions are very unsatisfactory indeed, and, although the expense will be high, the sooner the problem is faced up to the better it will be for the inhabitants of these areas.

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### **Meat.**

The slaughtering of animals for human food has now been carried on for some years at central salughter-houses at Shrewsbury and Craven Arms and the other slaughter-houses in the various districts have been closed. Inspection of carcases is carried out by inspectors at the above-named centres, and this makes it possible for an inspector to be present while all slaughtering is carried out.

The Sanitary Inspectors are, from time to time, asked by shopkeepers to examine tinned goods which are suspected to be unfit for human consumption. If their examination confirms this the goods are destroyed.

#### **Milk.**

In my report for 1943 mention was made of the new proposals of the Government with regard to the safe-guarding of the nation's milk supply (pp. 37 and 38).

A pasteurising licence was granted by the Atcham R.D.C. during the year to Hanwood Dairies, Ltd., and samples are taken regularly every fortnight. On every occasion the samples have passed the phosphatase test and on only two occasions has the bacterial count been higher than the legal standard. The plant is kept under close observation by the Sanitary Inspector, and this is very essential, as the plant is one which requires constant attention if it is to function correctly and produce a milk which is safe in all respects for consumption.

The Minister of Food has not so far scheduled any of the districts as being areas where only heat-treated, tuberculin tested or accredited milk from a single herd can be sold. Before this can be done it will, of course, be necessary for the Minister to be satisfied that the necessary plant exists to treat all milk by heat in any district, with the exception of the two types of milk mentioned above.

The following table gives some details of the number of milk producers, inspections made, and defects found and notified, etc. :—

Area		Producers on Register	Registered Dairies	Registered Milk-shops	Inspcctions made	Defects found	Prelim. notices served	Prelim. notices co plied with	Pasteurized sellers	Accredited sellers	T.T. sellers
Atcham R.D.	...	767	758	—	374	48	33	27	1	69	47
Bishop's Castle M.B.	...	15	—	—	23	1	1	—	—	—	1
Church Stretton U.D.	...	8	9	1	36	3	3	1	—	2	2
Clun R.D.	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wenlock M.B.	...	81	1	—	85	43	16	—	1	18	3

### Milk Sampling.

Producers who send their milk to depots have samples taken twice a month and, if these prove unsatisfactory, visits of an advisory character are paid to the farms concerned.

In the Bishop's Castle, Church Stretton and Wenlock areas samples have been taken by the Sanitary Inspectors, and an effort has been made to bring all milk produced up to the standard of Accredited Milk. No legal standard of cleanliness exists yet for raw milk, but a great improvement has resulted in most cases following visits, in which advice as to methods of production has been given.

## SECTION F.

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISTRICT	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	Acute Polio-Encephalitis	Para-typhoid	Dysentery
	Cases	Hospital	Cases	Hospital	Cases	Hospital	Cases	Hospital	Cases	Hospital
Atcham R.D. ...	50	8	—	—	25	—	51	—	2	—
Bishop's Castle M.B. ...	—	—	—	—	74	—	—	—	—	—
Church Stretton U.D. ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Clun R.D. ...	12	—	—	—	64	—	1	36	—	—
Wenlock M.B. ...	11	2	—	2	1	1	3	—	—	—
S.W. SALOP ...	75	10	—	2	1	1	166	—	1	146
Incidence rate per 1,000 of Population :—										
S.W. SALOP ...	1.58	0.04	3.49	3.07	0.10	18.69	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.02
ENGLAND AND WALES ...	2.40	0.58	4.16	2.49	0.29	10.34	0.05	—	—	0.01

## NOTES ON THE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

It will be seen from the table that there has been no serious epidemic of infectious disease in any of the areas.

Scarlet Fever was most prevalent in the Atcham Rural District, where 50 cases were notified, but these were of a mild type and there were no deaths. Of the total of 75 cases in the five districts, only 10 or 13 per cent. were removed to hospital.

Measles was most prevalent in Bishop's Castle Borough (74), and there were 64 cases in the Clun Rural District. There was one death due to this disease. Measles, or its chief complication, broncho-pneumonia, is especially liable to be serious in the case of young children under three years of age and such children require very careful nursing.

Preventive inoculation is now possible, and is not made use of as much as it might be. It is of especial value in cases where a school child is infected and there are other younger children in the home. The disease in these latter can either be modified or avoided if they are inoculated within a few days of exposure to infection.

Whooping Cough accounted for 146 cases, chiefly in the Atcham and Wenlock areas. There was one death.

Diphtheria cases numbered two, both at Broseley in the Wenlock Borough. One case was in a boy of six, and proved fatal. This boy was unprotected, although every effort had been made to get permission from the parents to have him protected. No further case took place in the school he attended, as 92% of the children had been immunised.

The other case was in a boy of 16 years, who was also unprotected, but who had a mild attack, and made a good recovery.

This very low incidence of Diphtheria (0.04 per 1,000 of the population) is very encouraging indeed in view of the great amount of work which has been done to get the children protected against it. We are now within sight of the time when Diphtheria may cease to be a menace to the children of this country. All that is needed is that every child should be immunized on reaching its first birthday or as soon after as is practicable.

The following figures show the numbers of children who have been immunized during the year either by the County Health Medical Staff or by private practitioners.

Area	Under 5 yrs.		5-15 yrs.		Totals		All Ages
	Pte.	C.C.	Pte.	C.C.	—5.	5-15	
Atcham R.D.	114	137	49	22	251	71	322
Bishop's Castle	10	11	—	—	21	—	21
Church Stretton	4	19	—	1	23	1	24
Clun R.D.	74	66	2	20	140	22	162
Wenlock M.B.	83	102	22	18	185	40	225
S.W. Salop	285	335	73	61	620	134	754

### Note.

The number of children immunized during 1944 at the ages of 5-15 years has fallen, but this is chiefly due to the fact that over 90% of the children at these ages are now immunized. The chief problem now is to get as high a percentage as possible immunized at the age of one year. As the total births are about 900 each year it is an easy matter to see if sufficient infants are being immunized, e.g., in 1944 the number immunized under the age of five years was 620, which is approximately two-thirds of the average annual number of births.

## TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases on the registers of the five areas was as follows, on the 31st December, 1944 :—

Area	Number of Pulmonary Cases		Number of Non- Pulmonary Cases		Totals	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Atcham R.D. ...	56	34	25	24	81	58
Bishop's Castle M.B. ...	4	1	4	2	8	3
Church Stretton U.D. ...	10	5	8	1	18	6
Clun R.D. ...	20	17	16	13	36	32
Wenlock M.B. ...	21	13	11	20	32	33
Total (S.W. Salop) ...	111	70	64	60	175	130

These figures show an increase of 20 on the registers as compared with the figures at the end of 1943. Of the pulmonary cases there are 6 more males and 7 females than a year ago and of the non-pulmonary cases—three more males and four females.

### New Cases Notified.

A total of 49 new cases were notified during the year (31 pulmonary and 18 non-pulmonary). This is about an average number the figures for previous years being as follows : 1941, 49 ; 1942, 56 ; 1943- 52.

Of the 31 pulmonary cases 20 were males as against 11 female cases.

The distribution of the new cases notified was as follows :—

Area	Pul- mon- ary		Non-Pul- mon- ary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Atcham ... ... ...	9	4	5	2	20
Bishop's Castle ... ... ...	2	1	—	—	3
Church Stretton ... ... ...	3	2	1	1	7
Clun ... ... ...	1	2	1	—	4
Wenlock ... ... ...	5	2	4	4	15
Totals ... ... ...	20	11	11	7	49
			31		49

### Deaths and Death Rates.

The total number of deaths recorded was 16, of which all were from pulmonary tuberculosis, and none were from the non-pulmonary type.

The number of deaths and the death-rates for the five previous years were as follows :—

Year	Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 of population
1939	16	0.344
1940	18	0.375
1941	21	0.409
1942	24	0.483
1943	23	0.483
1944	16	0.337

Particulars of the deaths and death-rates in each area are given below :—

District	Number of Deaths			Death-rate per 1,000 of population		
	Pulm	Non- Pulm	Total	Pulm	Non- Pulm	Total
Atcham R.D. ... ...	M. F. 5 1	—	6	0.297	—	0.297
Bishop's Castle M.B. ...	— 1	—	1	0.760	—	0.760
Church Stretton U.D.	— —	—	—	—	—	—
Clun R.D. ... ...	3 1	—	4	0.422	—	0.422
Wenlock M.B. ... ...	3 2	—	5	0.356	—	0.356
South West Salop ...	11 5	—	16	0.337	Nil	0.337

In my report for 1941 attention was drawn to the recommendations of the Committee on "Tuberculosis in War-time."

One of the recommendations was with regard to financial provision being made for the families of patients who were undergoing treatment for this disease in a Sanatorium.

At present this financial help is limited to cases where the disease is in an early stage, and there is hope of recovery in a reasonable time. Cases for assistance are selected by the Tuberculosis Officers and during 1944 thirteen cases have received allowance. (Atcham R.D., 6 ; Bishop's Castle, 1 ; Church Stretton, 1 ; Clun R.D., 1 ; and Wenlock M.B., 4.)

As the eradication of Tuberculosis is recognized now to be as much of a social problem as a medical one, it is generally considered that an extension of these allowances to a larger number of affected families will have to be undertaken in the future if the number of new cases of the disease is to be reduced. Education of the public as to the infectious nature of the disease, more thorough isolation of infectious cases, the re-housing of tubercular families who are living in over-crowded conditions, and further safe-guarding of the milk supply are other matters which would help to lessen the incidence of tuberculosis, which still causes 25,000 deaths per annum in England and Wales.

**CANCER**

The following figures gives the number of deaths from Cancer in each of ths districts. Deaths for the previous five years are also given and the death-rates per million living.

Area	1939		1940		1941		1942		1943		1944	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Atcham R.D....	... 17	22	15	15	27	25	18	21	25	15	22	19
Bishop's Castle M.B.	1 —	—	2	3	3	—	2	1	3	—	1	1
Church Stretton U.D.	2	7	1	—	2	6	2	2	4	3	2	4
Clun R.D.	... 9	4	10	11	9	14	9	11	8	7	14	6
Wenlock M.B.	... 11	13	13	10	12	13	9	17	16	17	13	5
Totals	... 40 86	46	39	38 77	53 114	61	38 91	53	54 99	45	51 86	35
Death-rate per million living :												
South West Salop		1,855		1,609		2,218		1,832		2,086		1,812
England & Wales	... 1,620		1,662		1,670		1,834		1,740		—	







